

**Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting
September 7, 2006 Minutes**

Chair David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed members present. Introductions were made. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Subcommittee Reports:

Enforcement –Ron McKenzie reported that the Pinellas Park PD held a traffic detail and had 137 citations for speeding and red light running in one 8-hour period. Tarpon Springs held 2 patrol details which netted 53 speed and 20 seat belt citations. St. Pete Beach PD held 2 crosswalk details publicized on all major news stations resulting in 16 citations for crosswalk and 14 for seatbelts. They are now teaming up with Treasure Island for future enforcement. A DUI Checkpoint was held with heavy media coverage, resulting in only 244 cars, on Gulf Blvd in a 3.5 hour period. There were 2 DUIs and 6 total violations. Pinellas SO held School Zone Enforcement details from August 8- 11. A total of 35 deputies were involved with 260 speeding violations, 19 red lights, 37 seatbelts, 17 DWLSR, 28 criminal, 46 moving, 18 non-moving, 7 Move over, 2 DUI, 12 warrants, 94 warnings, totaling 432 citations and 16 arrests. On August 11th, a 25 deputy detail on the Bayside Bridge netted 40 speeding violations, 14 non-moving, 16 moving, 1 DWLSR, 1 warning, 1 arrest with a total of 61 citations. Glen Luben spoke about the excessive speeds on the Bayside. Recently, 1 vehicle was going 153 mph and then slowed to 143 mph when he was cited and this was at 6 pm. There were 2 racers pulled over again at 6 pm. They were charged with reckless driving. The SO is working with the County to light up lines on the pavement to be able to do night enforcement. Peter mentioned that FDOT may be able to help with rumble strips that will make high speeds uncomfortable. There was discussion also about how fines are often not levied and may such cases are dismissed. This makes effective enforcement difficult. Dunedin held a Saturation patrol on August 30th and had 41 speeding, 4 non-moving, 2 DWLSR, 1 child restraint, 5 seatbelt, 1 red light, 7 warnings and 2 arrests. The August total was 547 citations and 19 arrests.

Ron announced that the Pinellas Park Fire Fighters will be hosting the 2nd Annual Pinellas Park Bike Fest on Sept 30th from 2:00 -11:00 PM at Town Square Park (Fire Fighters Field). For more information, call 687-4484

Engineering - Marc Hanger reported the colorful fish signs as half-mile markers have been installed along Gulf Blvd to supplement the mile markers. These signs are used for driver navigation in the beach communities. The US 19 Pedestrian Safety Task Force had a mobile workshop along US 19 with Mark Fenton of America's Walking PBS series. Several stops were made and both pedestrian problems with possible solutions were discussed. A similar mobile workshop was also done on Gulf Blvd. Getting out of the bus and actually walking was very beneficial for all. The City of St. Petersburg is considering ordinances that would enable them to cite red light runners for traffic violations. This ordinance may prove a cost-effective way to reduce accidents using red

light camera enforcement. Mike added that the city research showed it would be too difficult to do through an ordinance. They need to work on legislation to allow camera enforcement. New 15 mph zone and school flashers at San Jose Elementary and Garrison Jones in Dunedin were installed. A recent analysis by our crash data center revealed that twice as many male fatalities as female on our county roads with drivers license registrations about the same.

TIM – Terry Hensley discussed the issue of multi-jurisdictional challenges at a recent Traffic Incident Management meeting. It is often difficult to get an actual crash location because of the high number of cell phone calls used to report the crash. It is a big problem on limited access roads since the direction is not always given by the caller. They are working with the dispatcher and agencies to clarify what is needed from the callers. The new mile markers may help.

Education –Dave reported that Motorcycle Safety Tips were reviewed by the Law Enforcement Committee and now will likely be published by FDOT and distributed. Bruce reported that the CARS Event was rescheduled to September 16 at Riverview High School from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. CARS started out with Tampa Police Department about 3 years ago. The kids sign an agreement not to street race and use drugs. These events give them a venue to show off their cars. Pinellas law enforcement officers are invited to attend as they would like to add schools in Pinellas for an event. They have 8 scheduled now for Hillsborough. The Street Nights activity the last Saturday of each month is still going well. Jean announced the Suncoast Safety Council is working on partnering with PTEC for a Motorcycle Safety Class. George Edmiston with Largo PD announced that the Saved By the Belt Award will be announced at the Largo city commission meetings monthly. There will be recognition and a monetary award to those who were involved in a serious crash but escaped serious injury by wearing their seatbelt. Largo PD and the SSC are working together to increase safety belt usage. The first target is Largo High School and then they will focus on middle school and elementary school students, rewarding those belted when dropped off. The SADD website has good information and Buckle Up Promise Cards. Eileen Pearson reported the Drunk Driving Simulator Trailer will be available in St. Pete on September 17th from noon- 5 pm for teen drivers. The Honeywell parking lot was offered as a site by Glen who made the contacts.

OLD BUSINESS

St. Petersburg Fire Department members made a presentation to show their activity for the first day of school. Members at the 13 stations held banners and signs at intersections and in front of the stations reminding drivers that school has started so slow down. It was very well received and a rewarding activity. All team members were impressed with the idea and felt it was very effective.

NEW BUSINESS – Lt. Jim Milikin, from Lealman FD gave a Safe Kids presentation on the October 4, Walk Your Child to School Day. They are hoping for 30 schools to

participate this year. FDOT has money to promote kids walking safely so they may be a resource for future projects. He is taking the St. Pete FD sign idea to the Fire Chief's meeting to encourage participation using the idea.

Sheila Martin from Bay Area Commuter Services announced that the Commuter Choices Week will be Sept. 25 – 29. There are two Pinellas locations for these events. On Sept. 27th it will be in downtown Clearwater and on Sept. 29th, the activity will be in downtown St. Petersburg. On Sept. 20, PSTA/PMPO will be helping in an event at the Devil Rays game. This is the 10th anniversary of the week-long event that looks for a commitment for 1 day to use alternative transportation such as walking vanpool, carpool, biking or transit. Information on all BACS programs can be obtained from their website at www.tampbayrideshare.org.

Renee Napier, Safe Teen Driver, gave an update on the status of her request to have the sentence reduced of the young driver who killed her daughter and her best friend. The judge did rule to allow the two 11 year sentences to run concurrently. This was with the support of both families involved. Eric has served 3 years.

Open Forum – Mike Gust asked about temporary stop signs for emergency situations. FDOT's strategy is currently to harden traffic signals and make them unlikely to blow down and get them back up as quickly as possible. They are focusing on major intersections using solar or battery powered backup. Legal issues and available dollars for signal replacement factor into what is able to be completed.

Glen discussed the issue of the request by Sunstar for the Opticon devices currently allowed on first responder vehicles only. There will be another meeting to continue the discussions and objections to having more vehicles with the ability to pre-empt the traffic signal cycle which creates traffic problems.

Also, the NHTSA video, "You Won't Be Able To Stop This Bullet" is available for distribution. This video highlights the danger to officers during traffic stops. "Move Over" and the spring campaign, "Move It" also focus on this issue.

The Pinellas Sheriff's Office is willing to help cities with DUI and White Light enforcement details using helicopters.

Announcements – The Florida Chief's Challenge announced that Pinellas Sheriff's Office came in first for the state within their size category and St. Pete Beach PD and Tarpon Springs PD took 3rd in their categories. This is a tremendous achievement for these agencies and they are to be commended for their efforts.

The radar/laser updated rules will soon be approved.

Jeanette announced that the "Recipes for the Road" is still accepting recipes from local restaurants. This is good publicity for the restaurant as they will be printing and distributing 20,000 copies in the Tampa Bay area.

George announced that there will be an 8-hour Aggressive Driving Class on Sept. 22 at the Medical Examiners Office and in October a Traffic Scene Mapping Course will be offered in Largo. Also, on Nov. 11, the Ironman Ride activity will impact traffic on Belcher Rd.

St. Petersburg reported that the 4 locations where strobe lights were installed 90 days earlier at the crosswalks, have maintained a 99% compliance rate. Approval has been received for 20 additional sites.

The team commended Peter Hsu for his excellent presentation on “Drive 4 Life” given recently at a Milwaukee traffic conference.

Reminder—Oct. 9 is the quarterly statewide CTST Coalition meeting in Gainesville with three special workshop sessions.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Thea Johnson, CTST Secretary

Members Present:

Lt. Phil Beahn	St. Petersburg PD	893-7157
Ron Bulen	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	453-3457
Mike Burke	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7100
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-8855
George Edmiston	Largo Police Dept	586-7473
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Terry Harding	AAA Auto Club South	448-2600
Jean Hattenhauer	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233
Terry Hensley	FDOT, TIM	813-975-6259
Peter Hsu	FDOT, Safety	813-975-6251
Thea Johnson	Neighborly Care Network	571-4384
Mike Kazouris	Tarpon Springs Police	938-2840
Glen J. Luben	Pinellas Sheriff’s Office	582-5604
Shelia Martin	BACS	813-282-8200
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park PD	541-0758
Robert Mitchell	AAA Auto Club South	448-2600
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Renee Napier	Safe Teen Driver	850-393-7441
Tom Paul	Congressman Bilirakis	773-2871
Eileen Pearson	Pinellas Co Health Dept	547-7780x153

Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Kris Scholtz	Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	787-5974
Marian Scorza	FDOT Public Information	813-975-6038
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police	813-664-6397
Venkat Vattikuti	Tindale Oliver	813-224-8862
Scott Vaughan	St. Pete Beach PD	363-9200
Tom Washburn	Pinellas County	
Carmen Pullins	FDOT- District 4	954-777-4361
Elizabeth Monforti	Dunedin Fire Dept	738-2935
Julie Newby	St. Pete Fire & Rescue	893-7480
Julie Rivard	St. Pete Fire & Rescue	893-7218
Julie Groves	St. Pete Fire & Rescue	893-7726
Ashley Marchese	Pinellas Park Fire Dept	541-0713
Bonnie Martinez	Waste Management	813-597-5811
Donna Minor	Waste Management	407-843-7370